

Addendum to the Wildlife PIF-BA & BE for the Dubakella Plantations Project
(Phase 2)
regarding the updated status of the fisher
June 10, 2020

On April 8, 2004, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a 12-month finding in the Federal Register stating that listing the West Coast Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the fisher under the ESA was warranted, but precluded by other higher priority listing actions (USDI FWS 2004). The FWS defined the West Coast DPS of fisher as: the Cascade Mountains and all areas west to the coast in Oregon and Washington; the North Coast from Mendocino County, California, north to Oregon; east across the Klamath, Siskiyou, Trinity, and Marble mountains, and across the southern Cascade Mountains; and south through the Sierra Nevada. On October 7, 2014, the FWS published a proposed rule in the Federal Register to list the West Coast DPS of fisher as Threatened (USDI FWS 2014). On April 18, 2016, the FWS withdrew its October 7, 2014 proposed rule (USDI FWS 2016). On September 21, 2018, the District Court for the Northern District of California vacated the April 2016 withdrawal, and the Federal listing status of the West Coast DPS of fisher returned to “Proposed Threatened.” In 2019, a Revised Proposed Rule delineated two subpopulations of the West Coast DPS: the Northern California/Southern Oregon and the Southern Sierra Nevada subpopulations. The Dubakella project is in the Northern California/Southern Oregon DPS. On May 15, 2020 the FWS determined that only the Southern Sierra Nevada DPS of this species warrants listing under the ESA at this time and that listing the Northern California/Southern Oregon DPS is not warranted (USDI FWS, 2020).

The fisher is only a Forest Service Sensitive Species and is therefore solely included in the Biological Evaluation (BE) for this project. The analysis in the BE addresses the project impacts to individuals in the project area, and its viability at the Forest scale. The proposed action may affect individual fishers, but potential effects to the population demography of this species are limited and insignificant, and will not cause a trend toward listing.

References

- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). 2004. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 12-month Finding for a Petition To List the West Coast Distinct Population Segment of the Fisher (*Martes pennanti*); Proposed Rule U.S. Department of the Interior. Washington, DC, Federal Register. Vol. 69, No. 68: p. 18770.
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). 2014. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for West Coast Distinct Population Segment of Fisher. U.S. Department of the Interior. Washington, DC, Federal Register. Vol. 79, No. 194: p. 60419-60420
- USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). 2016. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Withdrawal of the Proposed Rule To List the West Coast Distinct Population Segment of

Fisher; Proposed Rule. U.S. Department of the Interior. Washington, DC, Federal Register. Vol. 81, No. 74: p. 22710

USDI Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). 2020. Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Southern Sierra Nevada Distinct Population Segment of Fisher. Final Rule. U.S. Department of the Interior. Washington, DC, Federal Register. Vol. 85, No. 95: p. 29532